

Carol's Corner

Utah Women Attend the National Association of Commissions for Women Annual Convention

Utah was represented at the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) at the 35th annual convention held recently in Pasadena, California. The convention brought together women's commissions from across the country to focus on the theme "Many Voices, Many Choices". Attending the convention to represent Utah were Carol, Executive Director and Board member of NACW along with Emma E. Houston, Chair of the Utah Commission and Ruth Jackson, President of NACW. Ruth Jackson stated, "The annual NACW convention is an ideal opportunity to strengthen our coalitions, expand knowledge on issues impacting women, network with professional colleagues, and share programs that reflect the issues that impact women today. We are also providing strong representation for the state of Utah. Our participation demonstrates that Utah and Department of Workforce Services recognize the important challenges that face women today and that they are strongly committed to addressing those changes."

One highlight was the Achievement Awards Luncheon with featured guest speaker Shinae Chun, Director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau, Washington, DC. The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is a nonpartisan membership organization composed of regional, state, county and local commissions created by government to improve the status of women.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Eleanor Roosevelt was the chair and Esther Peterson, from Utah, of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, was vice-chair. The Commission produced a report containing the recommendation that each state form a similar commission. Today, there are approximately 270 state, county and local commissions for women located in the United States and its territories.

These commissions are advocates for equality and justice for women, serving their communities in a variety of ways. These commissions keep the needs of women at the forefront of laws, policies, practices, and promote the improvement of the status of women.

For information on the Utah Commission for Women and Families, contact Carol Walker, 801-526-9281, carolwalker@utah.gov, or visit our website: www.governor.utah.gov/women

